About your suggestion to construct certain bridges, a report from Chief Engineer is awaited.

108. Important needs of the Ambalapuzha taluk.

MR. N. GOPALA PANIKKAR (*Ambalapuzha taluk, Group I*) said that agriculture was the mainstay of the people of Travancore. A good portion of the cultivated land in the State was in the hands of the cultivators of Kuttanad. But it was regrettable that the ryots of Kuttanad did not receive that amount of attention and sympathy they deserved at the hands of the Government.

The member then spoke about the following needs of his taluk :—

The branch of the Manimala river flowing through the *pakuthies* of Talavadi and Kozhimukku should be made more useful for purposes of irrigation and communication by deepening it, removing silt and straightening it by the extension of the Chakkolam *todu* by 2 furlongs. The river, if improved, would be of immense use for the transport of goods to Alleppey, Tiruvalla, Chengannur, Aranmula, Airur, Ranni, Kozhenchery and other important places.

The Alleppey-Changanachery canal should be completed immediately. Only a portion of the canal had been finished. The work should be expedited.

The Takazhi-Ambalapuzha canal was the only means of communication to the people of Talavadi and Kozhimukku to get access to Ambalapuzha, the seat of the Magistrate's Court, the Police Station and the Sub-Registry Office. But the canal was not navigable during summer season on account of silt and scarcity of water. Funds should be allotted every year for removing the silt from the canal.

A road from Tiruvalla to Ambalapuzha would be a very important means of communication, as it would connect Alleppy with the interior parts of the State. The Tiruvalla-Edatva section of the road, which had been commenced already should be completed soon and the work on the Edatva-Takazhi section taken up immediately.

Special attention should be bestowed to see that rivers and canals useful for agricultural purposes were not brought under registry. This would adversely affect both agriculture and means of communication.

Agricultural boards should be constituted for the benefit of the cultivators of Kuttanad, as in Nanjinad. As a result of constant representations, a committee was constituted in 1099 to draw up a set of rules for the constitution of an agricultural board for Kuttanad. The committee prepared a set of draft rules for the purpose and submitted the same to the Government. No further action was taken in the matter.

The canoes and *vallams* used for agricultural purposes should be exempted from the operation of the Public Canals and Ferries Regulation. Formerly, registration was insisted on only in the case of canoes used within municipal limits. But subsequently it was insisted on even in case of canoes used for agricultural purposes and those used for daily necessities in rural parts also. This caused great hardship and inconvenience to the poor ryots.

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The Police outpost at Edatva should be converted into a Charging Station. The people inhabiting the *pakuthies* of Talavadi and Kozhimukku had to go to Ambalapuzha Police Station for relief when necessary. This involved very great inconvenience to the people in view of the long distance to Ambalapuzha and the want of facilities of communication.

Lastly, a suitable rate should be fixed for the commutation of *Kandukrishi* rent. The rate of 18 chuckrams per *para* of paddy was excessive in view of the very low price of paddy. The concession of paying the rent in kind was not also beneficial on account of the vagaries committed in the collection of the rent. The matter should receive the earnest attention of the Government and the rent for 1107 should be realised after fixing a suitable rate of commutation.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Gopala Panikkar, the question of extending the Chakkolam *todu* is under investigation.

An estimate for completing the first and second sections of the Alleppey-Changanachery canal was received by Government. But the work has to lie over, partly for financial reasons and partly because the people do not give up the land required free of compensation.

The Public Works Department will take over the maintenance of the Takazhi-Ambalapuzha canal as early as possible, if funds can be allotted.

Sections of the Tiruvalla-Ambalapuzha road are under construction. Here again, the work has been held up by land acquisition proceedings; and you will do well to advise the people to surrender the required lands.

Canals useful for agricultural purposes are, as a general rule, not brought under registry. Even if the question is raised, the Public Works Department is consulted.

If agricultural boards are organised by private persons, the Department will render all possible help.

Government have granted concessions in the case of canoes and *vallams* used for agricultural purposes by insisting only on a single initial registration instead of annual registration, except when *vallams* change ownership.

It is impossible to give Charging Stations wherever they are asked for, and the necessity for having one at Edatva has not been established.

Government have granted considerable concessions to the tenants of the Ambalapuzha *Kandukrishi pattam* lands, and as matters stand at present, the existing rates will not be taken up for revision until the next year when the rent for 1108 is due for payment. Any representation on this point will then be considered.

109. Needs of the Ambalapuzha taluk.

MR. K. SANKARA PANIKKAR (*Ambalapuzha taluk, Group II*) first urged the necessity of having an Assistant Superintendent of Police at Alleppey. The absence of a Police Officer of the status of an

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